

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY TEAM

2004-2005 Plan of Work

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2004-2005 Program of Work

INTRODUCTION

A Forest Health Protection International Activity Plan guides Forest Health Protection (FHP) international activities nationally. The Plan recognizes that FHP specialists should maintain a level of involvement at the international level. Many exotic insects, diseases, and plants threaten the health of our native forests. Trade agreements, the ease of travel between countries, and increased demands worldwide on forest resources, all result in a need for FHP to remain actively involved in the international arena. In addition, we share common borders with Canada and Mexico, which results in common insect and disease concerns.

The Goals identified in the FHP International Activity Plan are:

- Goal 1.** U.S. Forests are protected from exotic pests.
- Goal 2.** North American countries have strong forest pest management programs.
- Goal 3.** Biological control options are in place to protect U.S. forests from exotic Pests.
- Goal 4.** Forest health technology and expertise are shared worldwide.

As part of that Plan, an International Activity Team (IAT) was established to manage the international activities for the Washington Office FHP, and assure that the goals were being met nationally. One of the responsibilities of the IAT is to develop a periodic National FHP International Activity Plan of Work. This document is the 2004-2005 Plan of Work. It is recognized that there are ongoing contributions of each Region/NA; and that there are areas where FHP is active internationally above and beyond the focus of the IAT. These include ongoing cooperation with China and Russia, and the Import Wood Risk Assessment Program. This Plan identifies focus and actions that should occur if we are to continue to achieve progressive accomplishments within the goals.

Emphasis areas for the next two years will address the goals for protecting United States forests from exotic pests and strengthening and developing relationships. The emphasis areas for 2004-2005 are:

- 1) Continue to coordinate with, develop relationships, and provide assistance to Mexico, especially in areas of common interest that will strengthen our mutual forest health protection programs;
- 2) Work with International Programs to continue to develop relations and expertise in the Asian/Pacific Rim;
- 3) Facilitate sharing FHP technologies with other countries, and
- 4) Continue to emphasize professional development and expertise for Forest Health Protection staff in the international arena.

It is intended that this Plan will be flexible and will be reviewed periodically to determine accomplishments in priority areas and adjust, as necessary.

2004-2005 Program of Work - Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1. U.S. FORESTS ARE PROTECTED FROM EXOTIC PESTS

OBJECTIVES:

1. Assure regulatory laws, policies, and programs protect our forest resources.
2. Continue to support regulatory programs.

Action:

- a. Continue to coordinate and work with APHIS and Russian entomologists on Russian Far Eastern ports Asian Gypsy Moth monitoring program.
 - negotiate new agreement
 - extend program to include monitoring for pink gypsy moth and nun moth
 - continue funding assistance at same level
 - b. Coordinate with APHIS to negotiate a similar port monitoring and inspection program in Japan.
 - c. As members of the USDA Forest Service Wood Import Risk Assessment and Mitigation Evaluation team, provide technical support to APHIS.
 - complete pest risk assessments for eucalyptus and radiata pine from Australia.
 - Initiate new risk assessments, as needed
3. Identify/develop technologies that can be used to protect U.S. forests.
 - identify or develop monitoring tools for rapid detection and response of invasive insects and diseases.
 - Maintain and support the Exotic Forest Pest Information System (EXFOR) as a network for identifying potentially damaging pest not currently in North America.

GOAL 2. NORTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE STRONG FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

OBJECTIVES:

1. The three North American countries have strong policies for protecting forests.
 - Continue to participate and provide input to the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) to develop standardized solid wood packing materials guidelines for North American continent countries.

2. The countries have programs and technology to implement the policies.

Action: *IAT Emphasis Area (1) for 2004-2005 - Mexico*

- a. Continue to provide assistance and training in developing aerial detection survey program.
- b. Provide technical assistance to Mexico in establishing a Forest Health Monitoring program.
- c. Participate, coordinate and assist in developing and implementing insect and disease and forest health management technologies and projects, such as:
 - technologies for bark beetle monitoring, survey, and management;
 - assistance with detecting and controlling forest insects and diseases,
 - conduct coordinated survey of pinyon pine ips mortality in southwestern U.S. and Mexico (Collaborative work between FHP and Mexico Comision Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR) on bark beetle impacts on pinyon pine ecosystems)
 - Continue to provide oversight and assistance on the oak decline survey.

3. Coordinate with Mexico and Canada to develop a joint Risk Map for the North American continent.

GOAL 3. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OPTIONS ARE IN PLACE TO PROTECT U.S. FORESTS FROM EXOTIC PESTS

OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase our knowledge of biological control.
2. Identify options for biological control.
3. Develop and implement biological control programs.

Action:

-Primarily through Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET), develop and identify natural control enemies, and develop biological control programs for non-native introduced species, such as Mile-a-Minute weed, pink hibiscus and papaya mealy bugs, Japanese knotweed, and hemlock woolly adelgid.

GOAL 4. FOREST HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERTISE ARE SHARED WORLDWIDE

OBJECTIVES:

1. Professional development, training and experience are available to all forest health protection personnel.

Action: *IAT Emphasis Area (4) for 2004 – 2005 – Professional development*

- a. The IAT will maintain interest and skills database of FHP folks nationwide.
 - b. The IAT will set aside funding, identify or coordinate opportunities, and actively recruit for participation in international activities – goal is to provide international opportunities to at least 2 FHP folks with little or no international experience per year.
2. Provide technical assistance to other countries as requested.

Action:

- Will respond to requests for assistance, as appropriate.

3. Form partnerships and collaborations to develop technologies, coordinate pest management programs and share information with other countries.

Action: IAT Emphasis Area (3) for 2004-2005 - Facilitate sharing FHP technologies with other countries

- identify opportunities to share FSP technologies such as spray technology, digital sketch-mapping, disease resistance studies, bark beetle pheromone monitoring systems, etc.

Action: IAT Emphasis Area (2) for 2004-2005 – In conjunction with International Programs, develop stronger Forest Health Protection coordination with Asia/Pacific Rim

- a. Provide funding and staff for new bio-control facility in Beijing.
- b. Coordinate with Forest Service International Programs (FSIP) and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN/FAO) to establish an Asian Pacific Forestry Commission.
- c. Provide support and funding to UN/FAO for Asian Pacific invasive species coordinator.
- d. Participate in international workshops and training sessions such as the coconut shoot borer, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) on Tropical Diseases workshop,
- e. In cooperation with FSIP, continue to participate on the Forest Service China Coordination Team to develop opportunities for cooperative research and technology development, technical information exchange, and program development.
- f. Continue to develop and enhance cooperative relationships and studies with scientists and specialists on invasive species of mutual interest such as Asian long-horned borer, Sudden Oak Death, white pine blister rust, etc.
- g. FHP Director continues to identify opportunities for coordination and partnerships through visits and meetings with Asian country counterparts.